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South Side landfill improves

By JON SCHMID
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

A South Side landfill in danger of collapsing has begun belching methane gas, a sign of improvement as work continues to stabilize the huge mound of garbage and chemical waste.

In December, a consultant warned that Paxton II, the state's largest landfill, had the potential to spew up to 300,000 cubic yards of garbage in the direction of Stony Island Avenue and the Big Marsh.

As early as next week, trucks may begin dumping 5,000 cubic yards of silt and clay into the crater atop the landfill to halt

further accumulation of water.

Workers have removed roughly 400,000 gallons of liquid since March to stabilize the landfill.

As much as 39 million gallons of liquid may have accumulated beneath the landfill at Stony Island and 116th Street because its concave top doesn't shed water and its drainage system was inadequate.

Slope failure at Paxton II, which covers 58 acres and stands 170 feet high, could pollute Lake Calumet and Big Marsh, remnants of high quality wilderness habitat in the city.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency hopes to get 33,000 cubic yards of dirt donated from

the city to finish filling the hole where the water collects. That dirt would be covered with a layer of clay, followed by 6 inches of shredded tires and finally topped with 2½ feet of dirt.

No indications of slope failure have been detected so far. However, the landfill has begun emitting methane gas, a sign that the reduced water levels have allowed bacteria to begin breaking down the garbage.

The final stage of the project would be to collect and sell the gas in order to recover the \$15 million cost of the project, said Dennis McMurray with the Illinois EPA.

Chicago Sun-Times 5/5/99

METRO ORTEM

North Shore hit by ozone: report

BY ABDON M. PALLASCH
SUBURBAN REPORTER

Some of the highest ozone readings in the last few years have been recorded in the North Shore communities of Evanston, Waukegan and Northbrook, according to a report released Tuesday by two local public interest groups.

Overall, ozone readings are gradually coming down, scientists from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday in response to the report. However, they are still high enough in the greater Chicago area that the elderly, children and people with asthma or other atmosphere-sensitive conditions should take ozone warnings seriously.

Just this week as temperatures rose, the sun stayed out and the air stayed relatively still, two local reporting stations at the Sears Tower and at a city water intake station on Lake Michigan recorded dangerous levels of ozone, said Adam Kessel, a researcher with the Chicagoland Transportation and Air Quality Commission, which helped produce the report.

"It seems awfully early to be getting readings like that," he said.

As summer approaches, there are likely to be many more days on which the heat and still air will cook car fumes and other emissions into ozone, which can cause breathing problems and damage the environment.

The commission and the Illinois Public Interest Research Group say their findings point out the need for even stricter emissions standards for cars and trucks and more government spending on mass transit.

The north suburbs get the high readings because the wind blows ozone north from downtown, said Mike Rizzo, an environmental scientist with the EPA.

"Emissions are given off in the Chicago area, downtown," he said. Pollutants don't stay in one spot. Usually they move north up the lake to northern Illinois, sometimes up to the tip of Wisconsin; sometimes they move across the lake to western Michigan, which often sees high ozone counts.

Under federal guidelines, ozone levels should not exceed 80 parts per million. In the last two years, highest levels have averaged 86 in Northbrook, 88 in Waukegan and 90 in Evanston.



JOHN H. WHITE/SUN-TIMES

A drilling rig will be taken to the top of the Paxton II landfill, the largest in Illinois, to bore holes determining how much water remains in the dump. Tanker trucks began pumping out contaminated water Monday.

EPA pumps water from dump

Move will prevent collapse of landfill

By JON SCHMID
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Workers on Monday began pumping contaminated water from the base of a South Side landfill that is in danger of collapsing from the accumulation of liquid.

Tanker trucks each capable of holding 3,500 gallons will transport the water to two 21,000 gallon storage tanks at the Paxton II

landfill, at Stony Island and 116th Street, said Dennis McMurray, spokesman for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

The water will be tested to determine the nature of the contamination and how much pretreatment is needed before it is taken to aeration lagoons at the nearby Land & Lakes landfill, said McMurray.

Eventually the water will be treated by the water reclamation district, McMurray said.

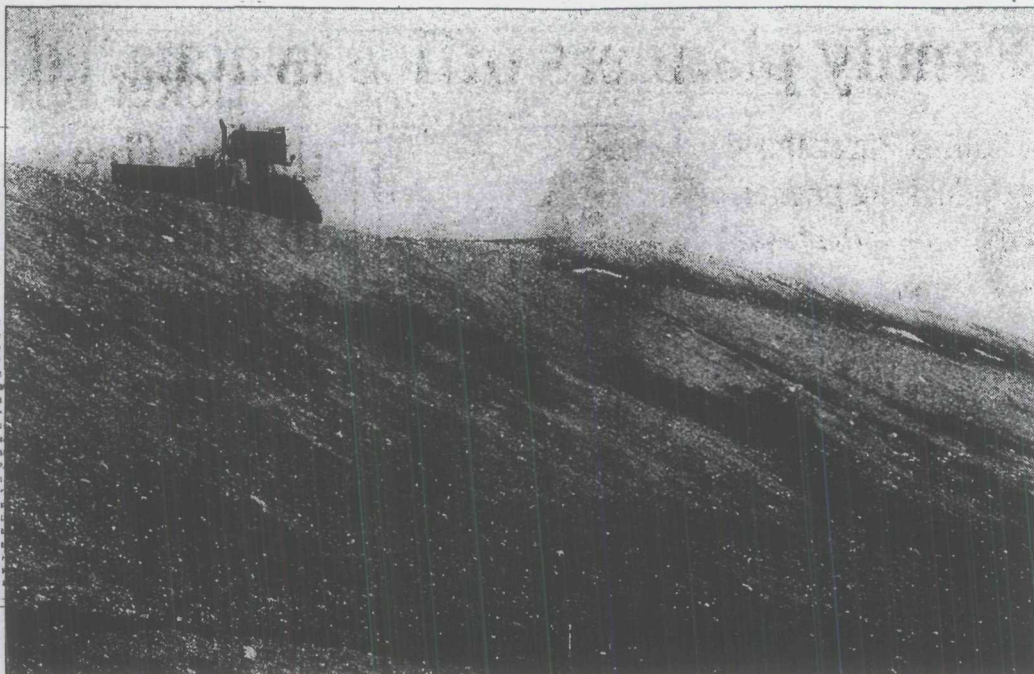
The contractor hired by the Illinois EPA, Heritage Environmental Services, was scheduled to drag a drilling rig to the top of the landfill

to make borings to see how much liquid is in the landfill, said McMurray.

Covering 58 acres and standing 170 feet high, Paxton II is the state's largest landfill.

The Illinois EPA learned from a consultant last December of the potential for up to 300,000 cubic yards of garbage and chemical waste to cascade in the direction of Stony Island and the Big Marsh area, McMurray said.

Such an event could also pollute Lake Calumet and Big Marsh—remnants of high-quality wilderness habitat in the city.



Tribune photo by Todd Panagopoulos

A bulldozer clears a road Monday on top of the 170-foot tall landfill on Southeast Side as workers prepare for two-year cleanup project at the landfill, which could begin to slide apart.

Workers taking on heap of waste

By Megan O'Matz
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Few people want to live or work near a dump, much less one that could come falling down on their heads.

"Isn't that, like, a health hazard?" asked a sarcastic Michael Suiro, shipping foreman at the Cox Metal Processing Co., which is within eye's view of the wobbly Paxton II landfill on Chicago's Southeast Side.

Environmental engineers warn that the 170-foot-high, grass-covered mountain of trash is in danger of slithering onto Stony Island Avenue.

On Monday, state and federal officials and Heritage Environmental Co. contractors were at the 58-acre landfill site at 122nd Street and South Torrence Avenue to begin a two-year, \$15.3 million stabilization process.

"A period of real heavy spring rains would cause the greatest concern, which is why we wanted to get started as soon as possible," said Dennis McMurray, spokesman for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

The prospect of tons of garbage sliding onto the roadway would leave most communities apoplectic. But the area immediately around

the Paxton II site is largely industrial and marshland. Those who do live or work nearby say they aren't fearful of a slide—at least anytime soon.

"That stuff is not going anywhere. They got it packed down pretty good," said Vince Kelly, who was dredging a creek along the roadway to clear a blocked pipe, work unrelated to the dump.

The company most in danger of being struck head-on is Clean Harbors, an environmental waste disposal company at 11800 S. Stony Island Ave.

Their no-nonsense receptionist, whose desk overlooks the trash heap, didn't believe an avalanche was imminent, however.

"I wouldn't be sitting here if it was," she said, refusing to give her name.

Though the pile appears stable, the EPA says the refuse below is shifting. Water from melting snow and rain has seeped in, stirring the dump and throwing it off balance.

"Part of the landfill would just slide off the property," McMurray said. "It would be like a mudslide, or landslide, or garbage."

To rectify the problem, officials will pump millions of gallons of liquid goop, called leachate, from the landfill.

On Monday, a bulldozer moved

along the top of the landfill, creating a path for tanker trucks to get to the site.

After the initial testing, workers will withdraw 60,000 gallons a day for one or two months at a cost of about \$300,000, McMurray said. The muck will be hauled to 21,000-gallon storage tanks on site, tested and later trucked to a sewage treatment facility.

Meanwhile, the EPA has asked the General Assembly for a supplemental \$2.3 million appropriation this fiscal year to install a storm-water control system and a dome-shaped cap at the site.

In fiscal 2000, the department expects to need another \$8 million; and some \$4.7 million in fiscal 2001.

"There's certainly no reason to panic," McMurray said of the teetering trash.

Residents near the dump certainly weren't.

"It's far away. It'll never come this far," said Joe Mezydlo, 49, who lives in one of only six homes in the block nearest the dump.

Indeed, McMurray said, the residents are not in any danger of being glutted with garbage.

They could, however, be subjected to odor, vermin and smoke from chemical fires that could erupt if the trash, some of it hazardous, is exposed to oxygen.

EMERGENCY PROJECT UNDER WAY: Work is being done to avert collapse of Paxton II landfill



Photos Yuta Sakaguchi/Daily Southtown

IEPA contractors work Monday at the north side of the Paxton II landfill on Stony Island Avenue near 116th Street in Chicago.

Southtown 3/16/99 Tainted water is being pumped out

By Kevin Carmody
Environment Writer

A state contractor Monday started pumping tainted water from inside the Paxton II landfill in an effort to prevent its collapse, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency officials said.

The IEPA tapped emergency funds to launch the projected \$15 million project after engineers warned that the 17-story landfill, located east of Lake Calumet on Chicago's Southeast Side, had become waterlogged and unstable.

Workers arriving Monday morning first had to grade and

stabilize a road leading to work sites at the 58-acre landfill, said IEPA spokesman Dennis McMurray.

Later in the day, the IEPA contractor, Heritage Environmental Services of Lemont, was able to start pumping tainted water from three crude sumps at the landfill's base into 3,500-gallon tanker trucks.

The IEPA expects each day to remove 60,000 gallons of the tainted water, called leachate, and then truck it to a nearby leachate treatment plant operated by the



A Canada goose files over a pond next to the Paxton II landfill.

See **Landfill** page 2

Now Paying

The noise on toys

Hot
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8 Even at 12 inches, he looks tough! He's the **Jesse the Governor Ventura** action figure, from Toyboy Man (\$12, due out in April).

Other landfills offer hard lessons

By Kevin Carmody
Environment Writer

The Rumpke landfill in suburban Cincinnati had a good reputation and was expanding in early March 1996 when its engineers noticed fissures growing on the steep garbage-filled slopes.

A few days later, 13 acres of the towering dump collapsed. A wall of garbage slid onto about 17 acres of adjoining land, mostly a limestone mining pit being excavated for the landfill's expansion.

"It's not like a snow slide, an avalanche," said Dan Campbell of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. "The bottom slides out and the top slides down."

The collapse at the nation's largest privately owned landfill offers Illinois officials a glimpse of what might happen if they are unable to prevent a similar failure of the Paxton II landfill on Chicago's Southeast Side.

Workers on Monday started pumping tainted water out of Paxton, the state's tallest landfill, in an effort to stabilize it.

Rumpke Sanitary Landfill Inc. needed nine months and spent \$3 million to \$5 million to again cover up the exposed garbage and modify the landfill slopes as the Ohio EPA ordered, Campbell said.

The state spent about \$1.5 million overseeing the cleanup at the dump and the company paid \$500,000 in penalties.

Two months after the collapse, a fire blamed on a lightning strike burned for a few days, Campbell said.

Then on July 27, spontaneous combustion sparked a more stubborn blaze that blackened five acres dur-



Yuta Sakaguchi/Daily Southtown

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is working to keep the Paxton II landfill from collapsing.

"It's not like a snowslide, an avalanche. The bottom slides out and the top slides down."

Dan Campbell

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

ing the next week.

Garbage gets hot during the decomposition process and produces flammable methane gas. When exposed to oxygen, 140-degree garbage can begin to smolder and ignite on its own.

The company had to use chemical mists to control odors and might have had a worse problem with scavenging birds if the accident had occurred in the dead of winter,

Campbell said.

The landfill was about 115 acres at the time of the collapse and is now permitted to expand to about 400 acres.

Engineers for the family-owned company argued that the collapse was caused by a buildup of leachate, the rainwater entering the landfill. That supposed buildup was in turn caused by a cold snap that drove frost a foot into the soil, interfering

with leachate collection, the company argued.

"Pressure from the captured water built up like a boil and when it popped, the base of the slope slipped," the company engineers told the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Ohio EPA engineers said they found no evidence of excess leachate cause by freezing, and instead concluded the company made the landfill unstable by exceeding the allowed height.

"It was a steep grade and they overfilled it," Campbell said. "It was just structurally unsound."

But at Paxton, Illinois officials say, the now-deceased owner both overfilled the landfill — exceeding the permitted height by more than 100 feet — and allowed millions of gallons of leachate to build up inside.

Landfill

Continued from page 1

Land and Lakes Company.

McMurray said the leachate removed Monday is being analyzed to determine what hazardous chemicals it contains and, therefore, the level of special treatment required before it can be released into city sewers and processed by a conventional sewage treatment plant.

To stabilize the dump, Heritage may eventually have to pump millions of gallons of leachate out of the 18 sumps inside the landfill, officials said.

Also Monday, workers were tying to position a drilling rig at the top of the landfill. The bore holes the rig will drill should help reveal the amount of leachate inside the landfill, McMurray said.

Leachate is created when rain falls on a landfill, penetrates the surface and filters through the rotting refuse. The Paxton landfill was not properly capped after being closed in 1992, so extra rainwater seeps into it, officials said.

Consultants have advised the IEPA that, because dry garbage is more stable than wet garbage, removing the leachate should prevent a catastrophic failure of the landfill's steep northwest face.

In a collapse, the garbage that forms the base of that part of the landfill would likely slide outward, perhaps hundreds of feet, and the slope above it would slide downward to the base.

A major collapse would almost certainly cover Stony Island Avenue near 116th Street, possibly inundating the Clean Harbors Inc. waste recycling plant, and send a significant amount of leachate flowing into Lake Calumet and some wildlife-rich wetlands, officials said.

Fires are also a concern because spontaneous combustion has occurred when decomposing garbage and methane gas from a landfill are exposed to oxygen.

A landfill expert told the IEPA that it could expect four or five days warning before a collapse.

The leachate removal is planned as the first step in a 30-month project to fix the landfill's problems.

The \$15 million project would include construction of leachate and stormwater collection systems, a clay cap to keep rain from entering the landfill, a methane extraction system and a mile-long, 25-foot-deep clay wall to protect adjacent groundwater, McMurray said.

The landfill opened in the early 1970s and likely accepted hazardous waste for several years until the disposal of chemical wastes became regulated by federal law.

The landfill lost its local permit in 1984 but wasn't closed by the city until 1992, after a nine-year court fight that twice reached the U.S. Supreme Court. In the interim, the landfill exceeded its permitted height by more than 100 feet.

Owner Steve Martell died in 1994, and neither his estate nor his corporations have sufficient assets to pay for the needed improvements, McMurray said.

Last March, the estate agreed to allow the IEPA to access the site and to keep any profits from the collection and sale of methane gas.

Paxton II landfill

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1999

Daily Sentinel

at risk of collapsing

Emergency repair project is launched to prevent disaster

By Kevin Carmody

Environment Writer

Illinois' tallest landfill is in danger of collapse, and the unprecedented threat to the Lake Calumet ecosystem is prompting state officials to launch an emergency repair project.

Beginning Monday, contractors hired by the Illinois Environmental Protection

Agency will try to stabilize the Paxton II landfill on Chicago's Southeast Side by pumping millions of gallons of contaminated water out of its core, IEPA officials confirmed.

"This is a very rare situation," said IEPA spokesman Dennis McMurray. "Nothing like it has happened in Illinois before."

Engineers who alerted the IEPA in late

December hope that removal of the liquid, called leachate, will prevent a catastrophic failure of the landfill's steep northwest face. That's because dry garbage is more stable than wet garbage, McMurray said.

If the project fails, tons of rotting refuse would slide down the 170-foot-tall slope, likely spewing outward hundreds of feet from the base and covering Stony Island Avenue near 116th Street.

"It would be kind of like the mud slides in California, except made up of trash," McMurray said.

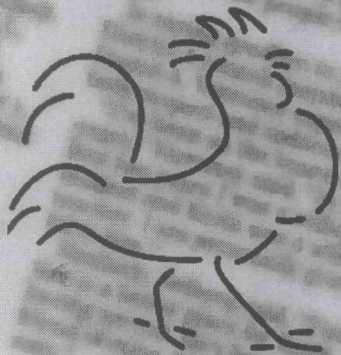
Fires are also possible because spontaneous combustion can occur when decomposing garbage and methane gas from a landfill are exposed to oxygen. Garbage burned out of control for days after part of the Rumpke Landfill collapsed near Cincinnati in March 1996, said Mara McGinnis of the IEPA's community relations staff.

See **Landfill** page 8



Early Bird

Clippings from Regional Newspapers



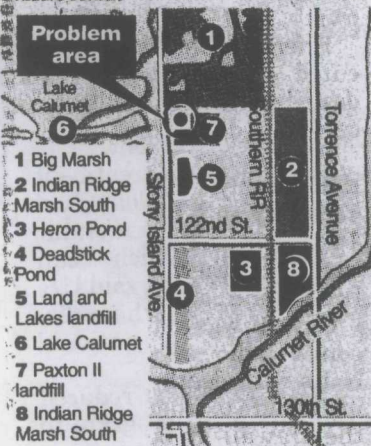
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COLLAPSING LANDFILL

A collapse of the Paxton II landfill could cover Stony Island Avenue in rotting garbage, spark fires and send contaminated liquid flowing into Lake Calumet. Also at risk of contamination are wildlife wetlands such as Big Marsh and Indian Ridge Marsh, the leading site for a city nature center.



Daily Southtown graph

Landfill

Continued from page 1

But the greatest environmental damage, officials said, would almost certainly occur with the release of some of the millions of gallons of leachate that have build up inside the 58-acre landfill. The leachate, containing hazardous chemicals, could flow directly into Lake Calumet and adjacent marshes, eventually reaching the Calumet River, officials said.

"That would be a very big problem, a very bad thing," said Charlie Gebien, on-site coordinator for the U.S. EPA.

The vulnerable slope abuts Big Marsh, the breeding site for the Chicago region's only significant colony of the threatened black-

crowned night heron. To the east, the Paxton property is adjacent Indian Ridge Marsh, the leading candidate for the city's second nature center.

But a collapse is unlikely to come without additional warning signs, said Stan Komperda, the IEPA's site manager.

A landfill expert told the IEPA that those signs, such as new fissures and leachate leaks, would provide at least four or five days warning — allowing time to close Stony Island and evacuate the nearby Clean Harbors Inc. waste recycling plant.

City officials, including the Chicago Fire Department's disaster response unit, and other state agencies would play a central role in responding to a collapse, Komperda said.

State and federal officials

Daily Southtown

said it was difficult to estimate the cost of cleaning up after a major collapse, except that it would run many millions of dollars.

If the leachate removal prevents a collapse, it would become the first step in a \$15 million project to fix the failings that brought the landfill to the brink.

The project, lasting 30-months, would include construction of leachate and stormwater collection systems, a clay cap to keep rain from entering the landfill, a methane extraction system and a mile-long, 25-foot-deep clay wall to protect adjacent groundwater, McMurray said.

IEPA Director Thomas Skinner authorized the agency to start work using \$307,000 from a special fund, while it waits for the Legislature to authorize the

\$2.3 million the project needs for 1999. At IEPA request, the U.S. EPA is also considering whether to assume responsibility for the project, Gebien said.

Patrick Engineering of Chicago uncovered the threat while trying to determine for the IEPA what remaining environmental risks at the site needed fixing. State and federal officials are trying to determine if it and other nearby waste sites can be capped or restored in a way that enhances wildlife habitat.

The landfill lost its local permit in 1984 but wasn't closed by the city until 1992, after a nine-year court fight that twice reached the U.S. Supreme Court. A Cook County Circuit Court judge in 1989 barred the city from shutting the dump until its

owner, the Stryker Corp., exhausted all appeals.

In the interim, the landfill exceeded its permitted height by more than 100 feet.

Stryker Corp. owner Steve Martell died in 1994, and neither his estate nor the corporation has sufficient assets to pay for the needed improvements, McMurray said.

Last March, the estate agreed to allow the IEPA to access the site and to keep the first \$1.5 million in profits from the collection and sale of methane gas. Considering the additional costs taxpayers will have to cover, the IEPA will ask to keep future profits, McMurray said.

Parents worried about contaminated soil

Daily Herald 3/12/99

City officials on Thursday sought to allay parents' and teachers' fears about environmental contamination at two Little Village schools that are scheduled to have 3 feet of topsoil replaced soon. Parents who attended the meeting at Zapata Academy Elementary School, 2710 S. Kostner, wanted to know the level of risk to their children. They also asked why the schools were built on soil that never received a clean bill of health from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The meeting, attended by about 40 parents and teachers, came after reports that Zapata and Finkl Elementary School, at 2332 S. Western, were built on former industrial sites that never were approved by the Illinois IEPA. Recent samples taken at the schools showed levels of seven chemicals exceeded Illinois IEPA limits, said school board spokeswoman Beatriz Rendon.

Federal funding sought

Sundt-Horton 3/12/99

Illinois congressional members on Thursday joined forces to urge the Clinton administration to restore \$20 million in federal funding for a spent nuclear fuel treatment program at Argonne National Laboratory near Lemont.

The program focuses on the treatment of spent nuclear fuel containing metallic sodium, which can explode when exposed to water, said U.S. Rep. Judy Biggert (R-13th), whose district includes Argonne, a national research laboratory.

The Clinton administration reduced funding for the treatment program to \$65 million for the 2000 fiscal year compared to \$85 million funded this year. Both Illinois senators and all 20 House members from Illinois signed a letter in support of the restoration of the funds.

— J. Carole Buckner

TEXAS BRACES FOR DROUGHT:

Gov. George W. Bush on Thursday declared a state emergency in 167 of Texas' 254 counties because of fire dangers caused by an ongoing drought. He also called on Texans to help prevent fires and conserve water as the state faces its third potential drought in the past four years. Last year's drought parched pastures statewide, depleted much of the state's water and ignited wildfires.

Sundt-Horton 3/12/99

State trying to keep landfill from sliding

Towering dump could slip into neighborhood

By Sarah Downey
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Hoping to stave off a serious environmental hazard, state officials will begin work Monday to keep parts of an abandoned 17-story South Side landfill from sliding off its base and into the surrounding neighborhood.

"If the worst case would happen, it would be a very serious situation, but we're hopeful the steps we're taking will prevent that," said Dennis McMurray, spokesman for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

As part of an extensive cleanup project, scientists and engineers will drain the landfill at 116th Street and Stony Island Avenue and truck the liquid to a sewage treatment plant.

"We've never before had a situation where there's a danger of a landfill sliding off," McMurray said. "But the concern is that if it did start to slide, it would slide across Stony Island."

In its direct path is an environmental waste disposal company, Clean Harbors, 11800 S. Stony Island, which employs more than 100 people. Although slope patterns would provide warning of a slide, the chemical composition of the waste could cause fires in the area, McMurray said.

Because the nearest home is about a mile away, any evacua-

tion of residents would be minimal, he added.

The Paxton II landfill opened in 1971 and eventually spread out over 58 acres. Though typical landfills stand about 40 feet high, Paxton II grew to 170 feet and racked up numerous violations. A U.S. Supreme Court decision paved the way for the city's shutdown of the landfill in 1992.

Last March the state took possession of the property in a deal with attorneys for the former owner, Steve Martell, who died in 1994 and left an estate worth \$500,000.

"Basically, you had millions and millions of claims and nowhere for the money to come from," said Matthew Dunn, chief of environmental enforcement for the Illinois attorney general's office.

The immediate cost of stabilizing the site is about \$300,000, he said.

The extensive cleanup is the result of the owner's repeated failure to meet permit regulations, said Jessica Rio of the Chicago Department of Environment.

Workers will begin the cleanup by pumping out millions of gallons of a soupy, decomposing waste known as leachate.

"What they need to do to keep the slope from failing is deal with buildup of leachate," Rio said. "But it's more than the liquid; it's a problem of poor construction because the water has infiltrated and destabilized the slope; that's why they need to get the liquid out and start pumping."

At issue

West Dundee candidates out to save fen from housing

By Bochetta Jackson
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Saving a rare fen near unincorporated Dundee Township has become an election issue as all three challengers running for West Dundee Village Board are vowing to reject a controversial housing proposal.

The contention emerged after the Village Board essentially gave a vote of confidence to a proposal by Pulte Home Corp. when it sent the proposal to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Pulte plans to build 314 single-family homes and a 28-acre commercial development on 232 acres of open space between Steepy Hollow and Randall Roads.

Village President Larry Keller said opposition to the plan has decreased in recent weeks as Pulte has touted the economic advantages of the proposal and committed to protect the fen and an underground recharge area.

However, the three candidates—John Cronin, Glen DeCosta and Andrew Yuscka—see their election to the board as the only way to stop the plan. The three challengers and incumbents Susan Berna and Margaret Jefferson are vying for three available seats.

"The feeling here is that the only way we're going to get this thing blocked is through the April 13th election," DeCosta said. "A lot of people are frustrated over the board's unwillingness to listen to serious opponents of the pro-

posal."

Yuscka added: "Why give up all that beautiful land for 28 acres that may not generate profitable revenue? It deserves to be protected in its entirety."

Cronin also is concerned that the problem of overcrowding at School District 300 will be exacerbated if the housing proposal is approved.

"We're in a financial crisis as it is," he said. "Bringing 300 more students into a district that is bursting at the seams is not the answer."

Trustee Paula Lauer was the only dissenting voice when the board voted 4-1 to move along the Pulte plan.

"The best thing for the area is to leave it in its natural state," Lauer said. "I'm not sold on the level of protection that a developer can provide, especially one who has no track record of doing something like this."

However, the other village trustees like the proposal because it expands the village into the growing Randall Road corridor with the 28 acres of land set aside for commercial development.

Nature lovers say the entire site should be left as open space because it contains a 3¼-acre rare wetland that both sides agree should be protected at all costs because there are only about 130 acres of fen land left in the state.

Keller said there continues to be a vocal minority who insist that preservation and construction cannot co-exist: "Some people

believe that any construction will cause a demise of the fen. There's not much we can do about that."

Village trustees had considered allowing the Dundee Township Open Space District to purchase the land, but a contract signed by the district and the landowner, Thomas Galvin, did not directly state that the 28 acres of commercial property would be annexed to West Dundee.

DeCosta and Cronin argue that a boundary agreement states that Elgin will not develop the property in any way, and that Steepy Hollow will not develop it as commercial property. In addition, Dundee Township Supervisor Jim Peterson said Galvin has never talked about annexing anywhere else except West Dundee.

Jefferson said any plan that gets the village into the Randall Road corridor should be considered.

"One of the key components that we're seeking is balanced development in our residential and commercial base," she said. "Randall Road is a strong commercial base."

The challengers are skeptical of a fiscal impact study by Pulte Corp., which shows the village could make as much as \$131,000 a year in tax revenues if the development plan is approved.

"Pulte is pulling wool over a lot of people's eyes," said DeCosta.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing March 29, and the Village Board will decide on the matter in May at the earliest, Keller said.

**EPA will pump landfill
to thwart landslide**

Daily Herald 3/15/99

Officials will begin pumping out millions of gallons of contaminated water from beneath the huge Paxton II landfill on the Southeast Side Monday in an effort to prevent a landslide.

Covering 58 acres and standing 170 feet high, Paxton II, at Stony Island Avenue and 116th Street, is the state's largest landfill.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency learned from a consultant last December that there was the potential that up to 300,000 cubic yards of garbage and chemical waste could come cascading down in the direction of Stony Island Avenue and the Big Marsh area, McMurray said.

"We should have five days' warning before there is a slide," said Dennis McMurray of the Illinois EPA. "That would give emergency people time to close Stony Island Avenue and evacuate Clean Harbors (an environmental contracting company nearby)."

The Paxton landfill has been a problem for the Illinois EPA since the mid-1970s, and the agency has taken numerous enforcement actions against it, including a \$1.5 million penalty for violations — the largest penalty ever issued under the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, McMurray said.

Earth-friendly feature not always kind to computer users

Q I formatted my wife's PC, reinstalled Windows and now, after my screen saver kicks in, the num lock, caps lock and scroll lock indicator lamps blink in unison, and I have to reset and go through the boot process to use the PC. What did I do terribly wrong to deserve this? P.S., I'm in the "doghouse," and it's not nice.

Thomas Cumberland @ntsource.com

A I've got an answer that will get you out of the doghouse with your spouse but put me in the doghouse with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The problem is that even though I can't be certain why your computer locks up when the screen saver kicks in, I can tell

ASK JIM WHY
Jim Coates



jcoates@tribune.com

you that disabling the EPA-approved Energy Star feature built in to Windows 98 probably will fix your problem but add a bit to your light bill and help hurt our environment.

The Energy Star feature can be switched off by right-clicking on the desktop, choos-

ing Properties and then Screen Saver. Chances are good that crippling the earth-friendly feature will fix the problem.

But this fix also hurts the environment.

A recent letter of complaint from Andrew Fanara, chief of the Energy Star program, took me to task for telling another reader to disable Energy Star.

He pointed out that "if everyone would use Energy Star-labeled office equipment, the United States would save almost \$1.5 billion a year in energy bills and cut air pollution equal to the amount produced by more than 3 million cars."

Sadly, however, I get lots of questions from people whose computers act up when software they are running conflicts with the Energy Star feature.

So, Mr. C., about all I can say is that if you ignore my advice the world will be a

better place. But you'll be in the doghouse. I'm there either way, I fear.

Q I have downloaded a number of fonts from the Internet; they're all in the Fonts folder in Windows. Problem is, I can't seem to access them from within Word 97. They don't show up on the pull-down font list in Word, and I can't seem to get access to them to use in a document.

Jim Leach, Lake Zurich

A Right-click on the Start icon to call up the Explorer tool in Windows 98. Go to the folder Windows and open the Fonts folder. Drag the icons for your not-functioning fonts onto the desktop. Then drag them back into the Fonts folder

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